

ROSEAU EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
Leadership Council Meeting
February 28, 2017

“To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today’s World”

Exalt God, Expand God’s Kingdom, Equip God’s People & Express God’s Compassion

In attendance: Darrin Smedsmo, Tony Fichter, Pastor Kecia Stroot, Bryan Dickson, Todd Peterson, Dennis Ingold, Rachel Krahn, Roger Helgeson, Sheila Brinkman, Dave Anderson.
Absent: Pastor Steve Hoffer

Tony Fichter called the meeting to order.

Roger Helgeson, Deacon Chair, opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

Pastoral Search Committee Update: The minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting on February 26, 2017 were reviewed. Our church voted in favor of extending a call to Pastor Kecia Stroot to be the full-time Children and Family Pastor for our church. Pastor Kecia has formally accepted the call today, February 28th, and will begin her new position tomorrow, March 1st. An Installation Service will be scheduled at some point in the near future. Rachel Krahn made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Dave Anderson seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Advancing our Mission: Tony has been going through our mission statement and what it means in Adult Sunday School. He highlighted that we have our Statement of Faith, our Mission Statement, and our Philosophy of Ministry (Values Statement) in place. We have a solid foundation right now with permanent, full-time staff in place. We need to be thinking about and praying about what our Vision Statement will be along with our Strategic Plan. Tony asked all LC members to keep our Mission Statement central on all our Board meetings and activities. With 117 members, 98 of which are active, and 150-160 attenders on average, we need more people engaged in the church. Roger mentioned some good ideas expressed by Kristine Dickson of going out into neighborhoods to engage, minister and offer rides to church. He also stated that we need to be more intentional at engaging new attenders in church activities. Tony handed out the Bluewater Vision Statement as a great guide, and also mentioned doing some church board/leadership retreats.
Our Mission Statement should be on all correspondence.

November 29, 2016 Congregational Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Kecia Stroot

There are Sunday School concerns of not a lot of attendance for the high school. High schoolers will be split up into 2 groups: help Kecia in the Opening with storytelling or drama, or prepare for the next Sunday (story, props, drama). Students seem to have a positive response so far. In IGNITE adult leaders are getting more involved with planning and leading games and lessons. Numbers are down a little, which is typical after Christmas, but are looking for ways to get those kids coming back. Taking kids to the boys hockey playoff game tomorrow night. April Ingold is joining Pastor Kecia for Orange training coming up in April. Very excited to get into the curriculum for married people and families as a full-time pastor. There are date nights for couple, a five week small group study each year, and monthly eNewsletters for spouses. The goal is to support and encourage healthy marriages before they get into crisis mode. Sixty kids are receiving backpacks in k-6 and now looking at adding this through the high school. NHS kids help with distributing the bags.

Youth Director Bryan Dickson

FUEL started the year reviewing youth group with kids and leaders, and looking at how we are meeting needs. Trying a new format based on their responses. We have a meal, then game time and circle up in chairs for lesson time. There has been good feedback on this, less distractions and more intimate. Lessons have been shortened a little bit and small group time has more

open ended questions. We are talking about topics they requested, like depression and “do you matter to God”. It seems to be going well. The last 15 minutes are left for more discussion if desired, or kids can go home if they have a lot of homework to do. Valentines Day was our big event in February that got changed to a Wednesday night. We had an AGAPE meal where all the kids ate at one big table to encourage community. Two students gave a testimony of what God’s doing in their lives.

Planning a parent fund-raiser meeting for CHIC, which coming up in July, 2018 in Tennessee again. Kristine got together with Kelly Kofstad and Becca Jordet for some fundraising ideas for CHIC. The parent meeting is postponed due to hockey playoffs. The two recent CHIC fund-raisers were the Adult Valentines Dinner which went well, and Parents Night Out which had 25 kids.

Will be working with Jan to start the process of getting a Counseling License in Minnesota. Is currently a licensed counselor in the state of Illinois.

Treasurers Report given by Todd Peterson: Pastor Steve requested a \$42,000.00 housing allowance for 2016. Kecia requested a \$40,000.00 housing allowance for 2016. Dave made a motion to accept both requests. Dennis seconded it. Motion carried. January and February Treasurers Reports were reviewed and accepted.

Board Reports

Trustee Board, Dennis Ingold, Chair

Trustees have had only one meeting so far this year. A few new members on the board so most of the time was spent orientating members to the role of the Trustees. Todd does an incredible job with the books and Rob did a great job with the budget and the reports. Dennis will ask where money should be spent for the inside of the church, and outside building and grounds. There are some issues with the bathroom sinks and water getting shut off properly. Will try to get that fixed this week. Still need to get a new coffee maker that brews 60-100 cups. Snow removal is being done by R&Q.

Deacon Board, Roger Helgeson, Chair

Pastor Steve has been doing a lot of counseling, consisting of mostly marriage counseling. Has five boys in confirmation class and needs a lot of prayer. Working on guidelines for Crisis Funds: member of church, member of community, fits mission statement, not for legal issues, follow the Holy Spirits leading. The Board is trying to be more diligent on making sure real needs are met.

Need to get a speaker in the nursery so helpers can listen to the sermon. CJ will take a look at the speaker in the nursery to get it in working order.

PRC: Bill Brandt, Nominating Committee: Karen Markstrom, Worship Committee: Milly Prachar, Secretary: Traci Fichter

Christian Formation Board, Rachel Krahn, Chair

New members are Trish Hunter, Tina Espe, and Kelly Mertens. Have been looking at all the roles of the CF Board. So many things have been lumped under this board. Will meet with Bryan, Pastor Kecia and Pastor Steve to look at re-aligning some duties. VBS has typically been under the Youth Director. Will follow up with high school Sunday School on helping Pastor Kecia.

Randy and Milly are teaching Adult Sunday School in April and May.

The budget for color copies is quite large and should maybe be moved to office expense. Todd said we need to talk with Marco about this and find out what the options are for us. The cost of color copies have increased dramatically and we use about 1,000 copies/month. Kecia said they are exploring options on sending home emails rather than paper copies. Not sure if this is the problem, however. April 9th is Palm Sunday and will have kids sing.

Mission and Outreach Board, Darrin Smedsmo, Chair

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) may be a place in the future that we could support.

The Mission budget got messed up toward the end of the year. Approximately \$1,400 was budgeted and promised to be given, but was overlooked. The Board did not realize the error until the 2016 books were closed. Darrin asked if this money could be paid out now. LC agreed.

Two missionaries, Jackson Helstad and Tom and Bekah Linstrom, visited this last month with updates and were well received.

Janae Stynsberg is coming in March. Jayden Acker will update the church upon her return. Not doing Feed My Starving Children this year. March is Food Shelf Month so donations will be accepted.

Ken Danielson is getting a new boat. Missions in Motion got him a new snowmobile a few years ago and now found a used boat that will work well. This is a \$16,000 investment for Ken. Funds are ready now to purchase this boat with a thanks in part to this church.

PRC: Sonya Peterson Nominating Committee: Kathy Brandt

Other Business:

Tony handed out a meeting schedule as a guideline and an eNews Article schedule. Membership list was handed out. Would like to see Kristine Dickson and Mary Hoffer as new members of the church by April.

Northwest Conference Annual Meeting in Cottage Grove, MN is coming up April 27-29, 2017. The 27th is for pastoral staff, and the 28th & 29th are for lay leaders. We need delegates to attend and would also like a report back.

The need for the extra piano and Clavinova were discussed. Since they still get used periodically, no action was taken as this time.

Honoring Pastor Joe as Pastor Emeritus was discussed. Maybe we could do it during the installment service. If there is anyone coming up here from the NW Conference, we could do both at the same time.

125th anniversary is coming up on 2019.

Deacons have given Pastor Steve \$25 gift cards to give out at his own discretion for people in need.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Darrin closed our meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Brinkman
Leadership Council Secretary